

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2-6 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended consistent with the Examiner's suggestions to overcome the rejection. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of JP 11-235916 (note that JP '916 has a US equivalent, Nakamura, et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6,244,335) and Aoki, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,871,696). Claim 1 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 depended from Claim 1. Claim 2 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of

Claim 1 and Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2-6 have also been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections as well as other issues relating to clarity.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 2, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7, which depend from Claim 2, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJOINDER

Applicants respectfully request the rejoinder of withdrawn Claim 5.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 27, 2007

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